

LIII.—*An Account of an ancient Ruined Chapel, at East Shaftoe, in the Parish of Hartburn, and County of Northumberland, by the Rev. John Hodgson, Secretary, communicated to the Society in a Letter to John Adamson, Esq., Secretary.*

DEAR SIR,

TRADITION had immemorially pointed out a plot of ground on the south side of Shaftoe-crag as the site of the Chapel-yard, and Chapel of East Shaftoe; but no record or other evidence, till within the last two years, had been brought forward to prove that such an institution had ever actually existed there.

The place, pointed out as the Chapel-yard, is in the form of an oblong square, and consists of about an acre of dry sandy ground which rests on rock of the kind called Millstone Grit. It has been fenced-in with a deep ditch, and an earthen wall. A large and solitary ash-tree is growing within the north side of its area, and is still called the *Chapel Tree*. Its situation is a few furlongs from the west end of the ancient village of East Shaftoe; and where the Shaftoe-crag begins to run in a hoary and lichen-covered precipice towards the west. The road from East Shaftoe, by Shaftoe-grange to Deneham runs on its north side; and, like similar institutions in many other places, it has formed the western extremity of the village to which it was an appurtenance. Of the extent of the village little more can now be guessed at, than from its ruins still forming two long lines of foundations of houses, with a space for a broad street or town-green between them. These lines may still be traced running westward, for 200 yards or more, behind the old Mansion-house of the Shaftoes and Vaughans, through a thick grove of trees towards the chapel.

The middle part of the area of the Chapel-yard is covered with foundations of buildings lying in lines, some of which form such sharp and accurate right angles to each other, that it required no fanciful imagination to trace among the turf-covered remains the site of the chancel, nave, porch, and of a southern transept, as well as of other parts of the edifice or appendages to it, the use of which, could not, perhaps, be well ascertained without clearing away the earth and rubbish within them; and, even then, conjecture might have had to employ its versatile and theorizing powers to tell us for what purpose they had been intended. The appearances above ground, however, corroborated the tradition respecting them, and strengthened the probability that at some remote period the chapel at least had been consecrated and set apart for holy uses; but proof was still wanting to convert the probability into fact, till last year, when a document, sent to me from the Tower of London, by Henry Petre, Esq., the learned and liberal Keeper of the Records there, fully effected that conversion.

In 1378, an inquest was holden before William Ergun, the King's escheator for Northumberland, to enquire before a jury, respecting several benefactions to chapels, chantries, and hospitals, the revenues of which had been diverted from the uses for which they were given; and among other things which this enquiry brought to light, it showed that the ancestors of John de Shaftowe founded a chantry in the chapel of Shaftowe, and endowed it with five score acres of arable and meadow ground, to find a chaplain to celebrate divine services there for the souls of the king and his ancestors, and of the ancestors of the Shaftowes, which chantry had for a long time been withdrawn; but the jurors further said, that the Vicar of Hartburn took the profit of the said lands to his own immediate use, to the damage of the King and the founders, and that the land and meadow were worth 30s. a-year.* One can hardly hope to meet with the record of this endowment, or with any very definite information about it; but in the following very meagre and

* *Inquisitio capta apud Corbrigg coram Willielmo de Ergun escaetore regis in comitatu Northumbria xx die Jun. anno regni Edwardi tertij per sacramentum Roberti de Louthre et aliorum juratorum. Qui dicunt quod antecessores Johannis de Shaftowe fundaverunt cantariam in Capella de Shaftowe,*

dateless pedigree, kindly copied for me, with various other documents, by W. C. Trevelyan, of Wallington, Esq., from a MS. in the library of Miss Currer, at Eshton Hall, in Craven, generation VI points out, Thomas Shaftoe as one of his family, who alienated a part of his possessions to religious uses. And Thomas de Schaftowe is certainly a person who very frequently occurs as a witness to deeds in and about the year 1349.

The family of Foliot were barons by tenure, in Northamptonshire, in the time of Henry the Second,* and branches of it continued to flourish in different parts of England, in the time of Henry the Third; but I have no where seen them mentioned as proprietors of lands in Northumberland, nor any notice of such a property as the Fenwick and Foliott fee. Roger Foliot is witness to a deed printed above, at p. 395, but from the situation in which he there stands, he seems to have been a Cumberland man. It is, indeed, difficult to give credit to the early part of this pedigree; and not to suspect that a few of the first generations of it (as of many other pedigrees which pretend to commence near the time of the Norman conquest, but are unaccompanied with dates or authentic evidence) are not as much indebted for their existence in writing to the flattery of our early heralds, as many of the British kings of England and Scotland are to our old Monkish historians. Families, like nations, have often the source of their origin emblazoned with the artificial light of fable, beyond the false glare of which all is savage and dark. There can, however, be no reason for doubting the authenticity of this pedigree from the fifth or sixth generations; and evidence may still arise to carry it higher, but in another form.

ad quam cantariam dederunt v-xx. acras terre ꝛ prati ad inveniendum capellanum divina ibidem celebraturum imperpetuum pro animabus regis ꝛ antecessorum suorum ꝛ antecessorum de les Shaftowes, que quidem cantaria subtrahitur per longa tempora : dicunt etiam quod vicarius de Hertbourn capit proficuum terrarum predictarum ad usum proprium ad dampnum regis ꝛ fundatorum cantariæ : terra ꝛ pratum valent p ann. xxx s. &c. &c.—(*Ex. Orig. in Tur. Lond.*)

* *Liber Niger*, 213; *Banks i.*, 85.

PEDIGREE OF SHAFTOE, OF SHAFTOE CRAGG.

[Where additions have been made to the copy, as at Eshton-hall, they are printed within brackets.]

- I. CUTHBERT FOLIOTT, second son of Sir John Foliott, lord of Fenwick=ANNE, dau. of Roger Welwick, lord of Shaftoe Craggs and Foliott Fee, and in right of his wife seized of Shaftoe.
- II. 1. BRIAN FOLIOTT, and 2. JOHN FOLIOTT, both died without issue.
3. THOMAS FOLIOTT named himself Shaftoe, after the lands he had by his mother.=Grisacre, dau. of Ewine Comine, Esq.
- III. EWINE SHAFTOE.=ALICE, dau. of John Pudsey, Esq.
- IV. REGINALD SHAFTOE.=URSULA, dau. of Sir John Clavering. ANNE, wife of John Strother, Esq. JANE, wife of John Elwick, of Elwick, Esq.
- V. 1. THOMAS SHAFTOE married a dau. of Wm. Blackett, Esq. and died s. p. JOHN SHAFTOE [one of this name was witness to a Capheaton deed without date, but made about 1270.] (*Hist. Northumb. part III. vol. i., p. 2.*) dau. of Ric. Grey, of Horton, Esq.
- VI. THOMAS SHAFTOE gave certain lands to religious uses. [One of this name occurs as a witness to dau. of John Horton, deeds in 1339, in *Hist. Northumb., II. i. 321, no. 7 a*; in 1342, in *Swinb. MSS. I. 152*; and in 1349, in *Hist. Northumb. II. i. 214, no. 4 a*; *III. ii. 9, 17, 18.*] Esq.
- VII. 1. JOHN SHAFTOE [lived in the time of Richard the Second according to inquest on p 413.] dau. of Tho. Lisle, of Felton. 2. WILLIAM SHAFTOE mar. a dau. of Conon Aske, Esq.
- VIII. HENRY SHAFTOE.=ANNE, dau. of Wm. Lawson, Esq. 1. ANNE S.=JOHN THORNTON, Esq. 3. JANE S.=ROBERT COOKE, Esq. 2. ELEANOR S.=EDMOND DELAVAL. 4. S.=JOHN POOLE, of Redburne.
- IX. 1. WILLIAM SHAFTOE mar. dau. and heir of BABINGTON, Esq.= 2. THOMAS SHAFTOE married a dau. of JOHN CARTINGTON, Esq. 3. MARY=THO. RADCLIFFE, or BUDCLIFFE, Esq.
- X. 1. JAMES SHAFTOE married dau. of Sir George Fenwick, of Wallington, Knight.= 2. GILBERT SHAFTOE married dau. and heir of ... Pigdon. 3. EDWARD SHAFTOE.
- XI. 1. WILLIAM SHAFTOE, Esq.=.... dau. and heir of Fenwick, Esq. 2. GERARD SHAFTOE married a dau. of Mr. Forster, by whom he had a son *James*, who married *MARY*, and by her had a son *Matthew*, who did s. p.
3. JAMES SHAFTOE married ELIZABETH MILLS, and had issue *Thomas* and *Mary*.
4. HUGH SHAFTOE mar. ELIZ. CRESSWELL, and had issue *Elix.* and *Mary*.
5. BARTHOLOMEW SHAFTOE married UUSULA SWINBURNE, and by her had issue one son, *Christopher*, and three daughters, viz.
1. *Eleanor S.*, married, *firstly*, to *Sir John Laws*, by whom she had *William, John, Thomas, James, and Isabell*:—*secondly*, married *Nicholas Merlaw*, by whom she had *Nicholas* and *Robert*:—and, *thirdly*, to *John Burthorne*, by whom she had *John*.
2. *Jane S.*, wife of *William Grimwell*.
3. *Mary*, wife of *Thomas Trotter*, by whom she had *Christopher* and *Emmanuel*.
- XII. I. PERCIVAL SHAFTOE.= 2. CLEMENT SHAFTOE=ISABELLA RAWE. 4. ISABELL S. married Mr. Loraine.
3. ARTHUR SHAFTOE, a priest.
- XIII. 1. WILLIAM SHAFTOE=MARGARET HERON. 3. ROGER S. 5. ARTHUR S. 7. GERARD S.
2. ROBERT SHAFTOE. 4. MICHAEL S. 6. THOMAS S. 8. JOHN S.
- XIV. 1. WILLIAM SHAFTOE, Esq. of Bavington, married [as would seem by the Eshton-hall MS.] Oswald Metforth, of Ridall. 2. PERCIVAL S. married a dau of ... Fawden.
3. GEORGE SHAFTOE.
4. JAMES SHAFTOE.
5. DOROTHY SHAFTOE, wife of Michael Stokell.
- XV. EDWARD SHAFTOE, of Bavington, fourth son of William Shaftoe. = ELIZABETH, dau. of Thomas Swinburne, of Nafferton.
- XVI. 1. CUTHBERT SHAFTOE, of Bavington, = ISABELL, dau. of [Esq. eldest son and heir, ancestor of Roger Bertram, the Shaftoes of BAVINGTON. Ac- [of Brenkley,] cording to Harleian MS. 1554, fol. 58, he had a second wife, but her name is not there mentioned.] Esq.
2. ALEXANDER S. married ANNE, dau. of Tho. Fenwick, of Littleharle.
3. SAMPSON S. married a dau. of Collingwood, of Riddal. [Quere of Ryle.]
4. MARKE SHAFTOE [of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, of which town he was mayor in 1548. He married MARGARET, dau. of Riddel, of Newcastle, and was buried in St Nicholas' church there. The Shaftoes of WHITWORTH and BENWELL, whose pedigrees are given in Surtees iii. 294-396, are descended from this marriage.]
5. NINIAN SHAFTOE married the widow of Bates, of Lynne.
6. RALPH SHAFTOE.
7. WILLIAM SHAFTOE married the aunt of William Fenwick, of Wallington.
8. SYMON SHAFTOE married JANE, dau. of Ralph Swinburne, of Widdrington. [Quere if this should not be Ralph Widdrington.]
9. RANDOLPH SHAFTOE married the sister of David Caraby, of Halkon.
10. HENRY SHAFTOE married ELIZABETH, sister of Wm. Selby, of Newcastle.
↳ *Surtees has Edward the tenth son, and Sampson the eleventh; and Mark, in his pedigree, is the third.*
1. MARGARET S. wife of BAXTER, of Corbridge.
2. ELIZABETH, S. [The Harleian MS. 1554, has *Isabella*] wife of JOHN BRADFORD, of Bradford.
3. JANE S. wife of THO. FENWICK, of Littleharle.
4. ANNE, wife of JOHN OGLE, of Ogle Castle.

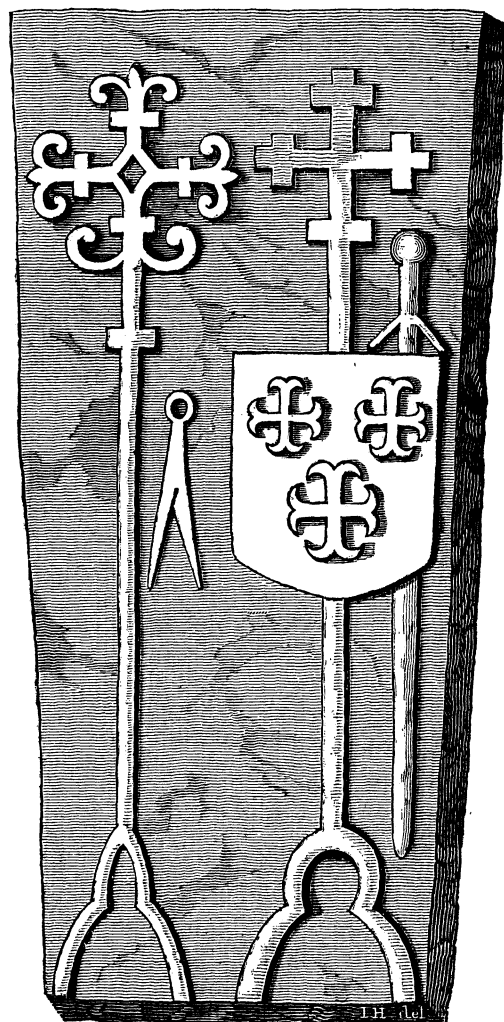
But that a chapel existed at East Shaftoe in former times, proofs of a higher species of evidence than either tradition or records have lately been discovered. On May 17, 1831, Lady Decies employed a party of workmen to dig among its ruins, with the hope of finding on its floor some monumental device or inscription ; or in the earth below the floor some evidence of the interment of human bodies. I was present when they commenced their labours. At first they were directed to make a cast 6 feet broad, from south to north, in front of the line in which it was supposed the rails before the altar might have run. At about 4 feet deep, and in the middle of the trench, a course of thick flag-stones with holes in them for fixing the posts of a wicket in, evidently marked the spot along which the rails had run ; and within it, at the north-east corner of the building, and at about 3 feet from the surface, and about 10 inches above the flagging for the altar rails, the workmen came to a sandstone slab 6 feet 3 inches long, 3 feet broad at the head, 2 feet 5 inches at the foot, 6 inches thick, and bearing devices as represented in the wood-cut in the next page.

These, I apprehend, are the funereal symbols of a warrior and his wife—the shears and left hand cross being emblematic of the lady ; and the sword, shield, and other cross, of the gentleman ; but the bearing on the shield—three crosses moline, are no where given, as far as I have seen, to any branch of either the Foliot or Shaftoe family.

This stone was regularly embedded in lime and lying square with the walls, and did not seem to have been moved since it was first laid down. Perhaps it was a memorial stone of the founders of the building. It was, however, carefully raised and replaced in its original position ; but though the ground below it was dug through down to the rock, no bone, or other trace of human remains, was found to prove that interments had been made in the chapel, and, consequently, that it had been consecrated as a place of sepulture. A wide trench was also made along the south wall of the chapel, but there, as within the altar rails, no human bones were found ; but the openings in the wall for a door and a window remained.

The whole chapel, inside measure, is about 66 feet long. The

south transept about 14 feet square, and the chancel 15 feet long and 4 feet broad. The opening between the nave and chancel had been walled up; and appearances on their floors showed that both of them had been used as dwelling-houses, or as barns or stables. There were strong marks of fire on the middle of the chancel floor.



I think it probable that the transept appended to the south side of the nave was the chantry where the services were done for the 100

acres of land, the proceeds of which had been withdrawn from their intended uses so early as 1378 ; and that the rest of the chapel was more ancient than the chantry.

Mr. Forster (Lord Decies' agent, to whom the estate of East Shaftoe now belongs) told me that the shafts of mines near the site of the chapel-yard, were those of a colliery, which was worked not many years since ; and that a large stone basin, believed to have been the bowl of a font, formerly lay in or near the Chapel-yard ; but that after the colliery ceased to be worked, this bowl was thrown down one of the shafts by some idle people. The coals of this colliery were of the splint or kennel kind, and of very fine quality, but the seam thin.

I am, dear Sir, your's truly,

JOHN HODGSON.

Newbigging-by-the-Sea, Sept. 7, 1831.